The Caledonian Mercury.

Edinburgh, Monday, December 22, 1729.

From the Weekly Journal, Decem. 13.

To the Author of the *Weekly Journal.*

SIR,

I Was a little surpriz'd on my coming to Town this Winter, at the very sickly Season, and sore Visitation, which I found here, whereby the Bills of Mortality were increased beyond what had been known since the *Great Plague:* Tho' what greatly added to my Confusion, was my finding the Generality of the People, at a Juncture when *Religion* should most display itself, almost destitute of Religious Principles, and many of 'em abandon'd to the loose Doctrine of *Woolston* and his Followers.

That the weakest Part of Mankind should join with this *great Advocate* for *Error* and *Infidelity*, I do not in the least wonder at; but that Men of Sense and Learning, and of *seeming* Goodness, should make up the Train of his Readers and Admirers, is to the last Degree astonishing. And that this is the Case I am but too apprehensive, from the little Conversation I have already had here. But as I am sensible you detest the pernicious Opinions of flagitious Persons, and ever countenance what is well intended in the Cause of Religion, I venture to send you a few Thoughts I have conceived on the important Subject of the *Divinity* and *Miracles* of JESUS CHRIST.

'Tis to me as incontestable an Argument or Proof of the Divinity of our SAVIOUR, that it has stood the Examination of its most *learn'd* and *bitter* Adversaries in all Ages, from the Time of His Birth, and never yet been *shaken*, or *denied with Authority*; as in Temporal Matters, by the Laws and Maxims of all Countries, a long and *uninterrupted* Possession of a Thing, is the strongest Evidence of a Right, and is always taken for such till the *Contrary* appears *manifest*. Yea, if there had been no Sacred Record of there having been a Saviour CHRIST on Earth, I, for my part, should have entertained a Belief of it, from *Tradition* only, and the common Reason of Things; because I think that the Frailties of our Nature are so exceeding great, as to require a powerful Mediator, if we are to be accountable for our Transactions in this Life, and if Man has any Pretensions to Immortality.

Indeed our modern Advocates for *Mahometism*, do not *directly* strike at the *Divinity* of CHRIST, but labour indefatigably at the Destruction of his *Miracles*; pretending forsooth to reconcile every Thing to their *shallow Reasons* and *Understandings*, which are shorter in this Point, than they are capable to fathom the Universe; seeing it is not ordained for Man, who is a limited and *finite* Being, to trace out *Infinity*. But, were they capable of succeeding in their Inquiries, could they possibly destroy the Great *Miracles* of our SAVIOUR, without affecting His *Divinity*? And could His *Divinity* be touch'd, without shocking the *whole Christian Religion*? No! 'Tis evident, that these rely upon and support one another.

So that our *busy* and *designing* Men, whatever be their *fair* and *plausible Pretences*, are not at work upon the overturning of Miracles *alone*, but of the *entire Divinity* of our Saviour CHRIST; and by opposing Him, they undoubtedly oppose the Religion of the greatest Part of Mankind, seeing Religion in general is founded on and extended by CHRIST, without Whom our Religion is vain: We have no Occasion for *Churches*, *Sacraments*, *Prayers*, *&c.* but every Man is left to his *Liberty*, to do what is right in his own Eyes, to the eternal Confusion of all Religion and Government in the World.

And to search a little deeper into this extraordinary Affair: If *Woolston*, *Collins*, *&c.* could so far succeed, as to convince the Generality that JESUS CHRIST was never upon Earth, would not their next *modest* Step be, to prove in reality there was no GOD? It seems very natural for me to imagine they would, as the Sum of all their Endeavours to establish Infidelity and Atheism. And tho' they might despair of imposing their Tenets upon Men of Sense and Reason on the last Head, yet they would have many Followers among the Dissolute and Vicious, and the Youths of this Age.....

These

These melancholly Reflections and Considerations must sensibly concern all who have any Share of *true Religion*; and tho' our Clergy are many of them ill Men, and of bad Example to others whom they should instruct, and which perhaps has justly occasioned the Clamour against them; it is highly absurd, that therefore *all Religion* should be extirpated: And which must of Consequence be the Aim, where one Religion is attempted to be suppress'd, without Means proposed to erect another. And this may be said of our most exquisite Writers who have lately so extraordinarily exerted themselves upon this Subject.

I much wonder that Things should be carried to such an extreme Height, with Impunity; but as I humbly apprehend there is a Cause sufficient for our great and learned Judges of the Law to exert their Authority, and put a Stop to this very much increasing Evil: so I doubt not to see the same very soon effected, to the Terror of all wicked and audacious Men. *I am, &c.*

Wye's Letter verbatim, London, Decem. 16.

Since our last arrived the Mails due from Holland, France and Flanders.

'Tis apprehended that great Intrigues are carrying on under the present Juncture at certain Courts, and secret Alliances making, which will appear in the Spring; but whatever Designs they may have in View, they can put us under no Anxiety, the Allies of Hanover being able to baffle all Attempts, and to fulfill the Engagements entred into with the King of Spain, particularly in Relation to the transporting of Don Carlos into Italy, and of his Succession to the Dutchies of Tuscany, Parma, &c. Mean Time no Endeavours have been wanting to gain the Emperor's Consent to the Terms of the Treaty, which, if he should oppose, its probable that the French will turn it to their Advantage.

South Sea Stock, which some Time ago sold for less by 4 or 5 per Cent than the Annuities, is now almost equal, the former being at 104 1 half, and the latter at 105 per Cent. 'Tis said the Court of Directors of the said Company, have under Consideration the Manner of carrying on their Trade in Negroes to the Spanish Coast, and that it has been proposed that for the future they should buy what Negroes they shall have occasion for, of the Merchants who import Negroes to Jamaica, and that the said Method is like to be agreed to.

Considerable Exports of our Manufactures are made to Spain and Portugal, of which were Yesterday 3900 Stuffs, and 954 Bayes, and no less than 35 Ships were enter'd homeward bound.

The great Fleet of Outward bound Merchant Ships, of about 300 Sail, are all got clear of their Ports, and have still fair Winds.

Letters from Dublin of the 29th past advise, amongst other Things, That Endeavours are using there to introduce a Custom of making the Dress for Corpse of Woolen, which will be of great Benefit to that Nation, both in the Consumption of that Commodity, which they cannot send Abroad, and in keeping amongst them vast Sums paid out on that Account; for white Callicoes and Muslines which are now generally used for Caps and Sheets in Burials.

'Tis said the Government is much incensed at what was published last Saturday in one of the Journals, relating to a certain great Man, and on the Terms on which the Treaty of Spain is concluded.

P. S. Letters from Vienna by the Holland Mail just arrived, assure that the Troops in the Austrian Netherlands, Germany and Hungary, as well as those in Italy are to be augmented; That the Emperor is making Treaties with the Italian Princes, and that the Courts of Turin, Rome, Venice and Genoa, will, in Conjunction with that of Vienna, oppose Don Carlos coming into Italy.

There is a Talk that some Discoveries have been made of a private Trade carried on in the East Indies, is like to make a great Noise, but we are not certain as to the Particulars.

An Account is come from Lisbon, that Diamonds were brought over by the Brazil Fleet lately arrived there worth 240000 Mill Rees, whereas it was never known before of Diamonds being found in Brazil.

From the Evening Post, Dec. 16.

Paris, Decem. 21. By Letters from Rome of the 30th ult. we have the Rejoicings made by the Cardinal Polignac on occasion of the Dauphin's Birth, which was one of the most magnificent that ever was seen in Rome. The Course of Barbs began the 26th, in Presence of the Chevalier de St. George and His two Sons, 29 Cardinals, and all the Nobility in Town, &c. There were 26 Horses that ran

ran for the Prize, which was a Cloak of Silver Brocade, with the Arms of France and Navarre embroidered in Gold on it.

The Marshal Duke of Berwick's eldest Son by the second Venter, has followed the Example of his Bother the Abbot Fitz-James, and has taken the Band.

Seville, Nov. 24. Yesterday Col. Stanhope (Lord Harrington) set out hence to return to his Court. His Excellency goes by Madrid, and intends to get over the Pyrenean Mountains before they are covered with Snow.

The Emperor's Ambassador C. Coningseck had some Days ago a Conference with M. De la Paz, of whom he desired to see the Treaty concluded here with the Allies of Hanover: That Prime Minister answered him, *That the Emperor might depend upon it, that his Catholick Majesty had not, nor would not, enter into any Engagements that could be prejudicial to the Interests of his Imperial Majesty.* To this C. Coningseck replied, *That the Emperor would never quietly suffer any Attempt contrary to the Tenor of what was stipulated by the Quadruple Alliance.*

They write from Cadix, That they were fitting out the Men of War in that Port, to form a Squadron to be commanded by Don Rodrigo de Torres, Knight of Malta; and that they expected there 8 more Men of War, 4 of which with 2 Fregats are to convoy the Galleons.

Paris, Decem. 12. It is here generally agreed that the last Treaty contains nothing repugnant to either the Quadruple Alliance or the Treaty of Utrecht. This Treaty will not at all stop the Course of the Negociations at Soissons, but will rather reanimate them. The Courier Bannieres is dispatched to Vienna, with a Letter whereby the King invites the Emperor to concur with the Allies of Hanover in re-establishing the Peace of Europe, and to send C. Seckendorf into France. In case the Emperor accedes to the Treaty of Seville, we shall reduce 80,000 of our Troops, and the Sums saved thereby will be employed in the Re-establishment of the Marine. In a Conference Cardinal de Fleury lately had with the Ministers of the Emperor, G. Britain, Spain, Sardinia, the States General, and others, his Eminence represented to them the indispensible Necessity of acquainting their Sovereigns with the exact Situation of Affairs in this Juncture, in order to procure the Instructions requisite for them to appear provided with at the Congress, whereat it is proposed to bring to an amicable Conclusion all the Differences and Misunderstandings which might give Room for a Rupture, which should be so cordially avoided. It is assured, that the King of Spain has promised the Allies of Hanover, to engage the Empeor to abolish the Ostend Company; and that in case he will not consent thereto, his Catholick Majesty will prohibite the Ships belonging to that Company the Entrance into his Harbours, under Penalty of being made Prize of. Notwithstanding what has been reported by some News writers, of Mr. Stanhope's Arrival here from Seville, he did not leave that Place before the 23d past.

London, Decem. 16. There are Orders to destroy the Geese in St. James's Park, 'tis said the Breed of them (being of the best Species of the wild sort) was a Present to the Duke of York, in King Charles II's. Time.

Last Saturday Morning, about Three o' Clock the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon arrived at Dover from France; and yesterday Morning, about Two o' Clock his Grace came to Town.

On Friday Night last Richard Hatton Esq; in going to the Hummums at the Piazza in Covent Garden, hid a Purse of 59 Guineas in the Chair in which he was carried thither, upon an Apprehension that he was going to be attacked by some Persons whom he took to be Street Robbers, who passed by, and did him no Injury; but when he came to the Place he forgot his Money, and had not taken the Number of the Chair.

From the Daily Post Boy, Decem. 16.

Cleves, Decem. 17. They write from Berlin, that the Express sent by that Court to Mynheer Riesback, the Prussian Minister at Copenhagen, being returned with important Dispatches; it was confidently reported, That a Treaty had been concluded between the Kings of Denmark and Prussia, and signed by their Ministers at Copenhagen.

Seville, Nov. 24. The Queen and the new born Infanta are as well can be expected; and her Majesty will go to Church in a few Days, to return Thanks to the Almighty for her safe Delivery.

Paris, Decem. 17. Some Days ago a young Turk arrived here, to embrace the Christian Religion, who was sent by Cardinal Fleury to the Seminary of St. Sulpice, to be instructed.

Our Letters from the Sea Ports of this Kingdom are full of the Damages along the Coast in the late Storms.

Hague

Hague, Decem. 20. Our laſt Lettres from Italy adviſe, that they are very much afraid of an impending War; and that the Pope has ordered publick Prayers to avert the ſame.

Hamburg, Dec. 12. We hear by way of Leipſick that the grand Saxon Army will not draw together next Spring near Muhlberg, but in the Neighbourhood of Lublin, which will be a grat Advantage to the Pruſſian Subjects on that Frontier.

Letters from Hanover of yeſterday adviſe, that the Troops of that Electorate have their Quarters ſo aſſigned them near the River Elb, that in Caſe of need they can aſſemble a Body of 18 or 20000 Men, excluſive of the Militia and Invalids; and that no Officer durſt quite his Poſt without Leave.

We hear from Heſſe-Caſſel, that their Troops in the Pay of Great Britain are ſo quartered, as to be able to form into a Body on the firſt Notice.

London, Decem. 16. The Counteſs of Peckenburg, her Majeſty's Aunt, is expected in a few Days from Hanover.

From the Whitehall Evening-Poſt, Dec. 16.

Bruſſels, Decem. 1. The Chevalier de Merveille hath received Orders furthwith to go to Vienna to give the Emperor an Account of the Affairs of the Oſtend Company. They are beating up here for Recruits, in order to complete the National Troops of this Country. They write from Oſtend, that ſeveral Ships had periſhed upon the Coaſts of Flanders.

From the London Evening Poſt, Dec. 16.

London, Decem. 16. We hear that the Regiment of Dragoons in Ireland commanded by Sir Robert Rich, is ordered to be entirely broke, with two others. And,

That Churchill's Dragoons in England will ſhare the ſame Fate.

We hear that Mr. Gay has a Comedy in Rehearſal (called the *Wife of Beath alter'd*) at the Theatre in Lincoln's-inn-fields. Where will alſo be preſented this Seaſon, a Scots Opera by Mr. Mitchel: The Scene whereof is the Highlands, the Tunes all Scots, and the Dreſs ſuited to the Cuſtom of the Country.

This Day (being the 14th of the Moon) 'tis High Water at Leith at 12 o' Clock, 42 Min. Tomorrow, at 1, 30 Min. Wedneſday, at 2, 18 Min. Full Moon on Wedneſday at 10 before Noon.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

¶†¶ That by Order of the Truſtees for the Creditors of WILLIAM DOUGLAS younger of GLENBERVY, the Roup and Sale of the Lands and Barony of FOODY and FINGASK, is Prorogate to Tueſday the 27th of January, next, in the Houſe of Mris. Thom Vintner in Edinburgh, betwixt the Hours of 3 & 5 in the Afternoon. The Rental, Progreſs and Conditions of Sale, are to be ſeen in the Hands of *William Forbes* Writer to the Signet, at his Chamber in the Parliament Cloſe.

†¶† That the TENEMENTS of LAND after mentioned, (lying within the City of Edinburgh) which belonged to the deceaſt *ROBERT STARK* Writer in Edinburgh, *viz.* A Tenement of Land in the Cloſe called *The Back of Beſs Wynd*, conſiſting of four Storeys, with Cloſets, Cellars and Garrets, being of yearly Rent about *L.* 24 06 08 ſterl. and that other Tenement of Land in *Preſton's Cloſe*, commonly called *Stewart's Cloſe*, on the North Side of the Street, near the Croſs, conſiſting of five Storeys, and a Top or Garret-ſtorey, with Cloſets and Cellars belonging thereto, paying *L.* 34 15 ſh. ſterl. of yearly Rent: ARE to be expoſed to voluntary Roup and Sale, by the Relict of the ſaid deceaſt Robert Stark, as having Right thereto from her Husband; each of the ſaid Tenements by themſelves, either in haill or in different Storeys, as Purchaſers ſhall deſire, upon the Eighth Day of January next, at Three of the clock after Noon, within the Houſe of Mris. *Nicholſon* Vintner in Edinburgh. The particular Rental, Progreſs and Conditions of Roup, are to be ſeen in the Hands of *ADAM MERCER* Writer in Edinburgh, at his Houſe in the Head of Liberton's Wynd.

¶‖¶ To be Sold, to the higheſt Bidder, at *Thornhill* in the Shire of Dumfries, on the 15th Day of January 1730, a large Wood of fine OLD OAK, growing on the Grounds of the Barony of Keir, about ſeven Miles diſtant from the Town of Dumfries. The Conditions of Sale to be ſeen in the Hands of JOHN DALRYMPLE of Waterſide, at his Houſe near Thornhill; JOHN NEILSON of Chapel, at his Houſe in Dumfries; and THOMAS GOLDIE Writer to the Signet, at his Writing-chamber in Brounhill's Square, Laun-market, Edinburgh.

¶ That on the Second of February next, there is to be expoſed by voluntary Roup, in the Houſe of *Alexander Primroſe* in *Elphinſtone*-Pans in Stirlingſhire, a conſiderable Quantity of GROWING FIR-TREES of all Sizes, fit for any kind of Building, either in Wholeſale or Parcels. Any Perſon may there buy, or give Propoſals thereanent to the ſaid Alexander Primroſe, (who will ſhew the ſaids Trees any Time before the Sale) or to Mr. *James Macewen* Bookſeller in Edinburgh, at his Shop there, in order to be by Mr. Macewen tranſmitted to the Proprietor. The Fir-Trees grow within a Quarter a Mile of the Water of Forth, where Veſſels of any Burden can be commodiouſly loaded at all Seaſons.

ENDIBURGH: Printed For and By Mrs. *Thomas* and *Walter Ruddimans*. Sold at the Printing-houſe; and at Mr. *Alexander Symmers*'s Shop in the Parliament-Cloſe. At both which Places, *Advertiſements* and *Subſcriptions* are taken in.